



Nebraska Agri-Facts

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service Nebraska Field Office

100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508
Phone: 402-437-5541 E-mail: nass-ne@nass.usda.gov
Access our reports via the Internet: www.nass.usda.gov
Mark Harris, Director



Issue 07-2006

Released April 4, 2006

Survey Results Included

- Prospective Plantings
- Grain Stocks
- Agricultural Prices
- Hogs & Pigs
- Livestock Slaughter
- Cold Storage
- Poultry Highlights

Dear Nebraska Farmers, Ranchers and Agribusinesses:

The following narrative and tables are from recently published reports by USDA's Agricultural Statistics Board. These data are direct results of information provided by Nebraska producers and agribusinesses to the surveys conducted each month by this office. Thank you for your response to these surveys.

Mark Harris
Mark Harris
Director

March Prospective Plantings

As of March 1, Nebraska producers expect to increase acreage devoted to soybeans, sorghum, oats, and sugarbeets, and decrease acreage planted to corn, hay, winter wheat (sown last fall), dry edible beans, and sunflowers. Nebraska corn growers expect to plant 8.2 million acres for all purposes in 2006, down 4 percent from last year and down 1 percent from two years ago. Expected plantings of soybeans, at 5.0 million acres, would be up 6 percent from last year and the largest planted area on record. Last fall, winter wheat was sown on 1.75 million acres, down 5 percent from a year earlier and two

years ago. Sorghum growers expect to plant 360,000 acres, 6 percent more than 2005 but 35 percent less than 2004. Hay acreage for harvest, at 2.8 million, would be down 2 percent from last year and tying the record low set two years ago. Dry edible bean producers intend to plant 165,000 acres, down 6 percent from a year earlier. Oat planting intentions, at 160,000 acres, are up 7 percent from 2005. Sunflower planting intentions, at 53,000 acres, are down 46 percent while sugarbeet plantings of 62,000 acres would be up 28 percent from a year ago.

Crop Summary: Acres Planted, Nebraska and United States, 2004-2006

Crop	Nebraska				United States			
	2004	2005	Inten- tions 2006 ¹	<u>2006</u> 2005	2004	2005	Inten- tions 2006 ¹	<u>2006</u> 2005
	<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Percent</i>		<i>1,000 Acres</i>		<i>Percent</i>	
Corn	8,250	8,500	8,200	96	80,929	81,759	78,019	95
Soybeans	4,800	4,700	5,000	106	75,208	72,142	76,895	107
Sorghum	550	340	360	106	7,486	6,454	6,483	100
Oats	140	150	160	107	4,085	4,246	4,324	102
Barley	6	²			4,527	3,875	3,667	95
Dry Beans	120	175	165	94	1,354.3	1,665.0	1,710.3	103
Sugar Beets	49.8	48.4	62.0	128	1,345.6	1,294.8	1,371.8	106
All Hay	2,800	2,850	2,800	98	61,966	61,649	61,478	100
All Wheat	1,850	1,850	1,750	95	59,674	57,229	57,128	100
Winter Wheat	1,850	1,850	1,750	95	43,350	40,433	41,404	102
Sunflower - Oil	36	60	28	47	1,533	2,104	1,845	88
- Non-oil	20	39	25	64	340	605	351	58
- All	56	99	53	54	1,873	2,709	2,196	81

¹Intended plantings as indicated by reports from farmers. ² Estimates discontinued in 2005.

Source: USDA NASS Prospective Plantings, March 31, 2006.

Grain Stocks

Nebraska corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2006, totaled 806 million bushels, down 2 percent from March 1, 2005. Soybeans stored in all positions totaled a record high 120 million bushels, up 11 percent from last year. Wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2006, totaled 27.8 million bushels, down 9 percent from a year ago and lowest since 1997.

U.S. corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2006, totaled 6.99 billion bushels, up 3 percent from March 1, 2005. Soybeans stored in all positions totaled 1.67 billion bushels, up 21 percent from last year. All wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2006, totaled 972 million bushels, down 1 percent from a year ago.

Grain Stocks: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, 2004-2006

Grain and Position	Nebraska				United States			
	March 1, 2004	March 1, 2005	March 1, 2006	2006 2005	March 1, 2004	March 1, 2005	March 1, 2006	2006 2005
	<i>1,000 Bushels</i>		<i>Percent</i>		<i>1,000 Bushels</i>		<i>Percent</i>	
Corn								
On Farms	380,000	520,000	470,000	90	3,030,000	4,137,000	4,055,000	98
Off Farms ¹	268,219	301,122	336,280	112	2,241,459	2,619,334	2,932,178	112
Total	648,219	821,122	806,280	98	5,271,459	6,756,334	6,987,178	103
All Wheat								
On Farms	7,000	3,400	2,600	76	257,890	304,710	256,000	84
Off Farms ¹	34,742	27,134	25,238	93	762,727	679,681	716,240	105
Total	41,742	30,534	27,838	91	1,020,617	984,391	972,240	99
Soybeans								
On Farms	21,000	55,000	45,000	82	355,900	795,000	872,000	110
Off Farms ¹	58,047	53,634	75,247	140	549,947	586,364	796,555	136
Total	79,047	108,634	120,247	111	905,847	1,381,364	1,668,555	121
Sorghum								
On Farms	3,400	4,700	2,800	60	21,000	33,400	25,900	78
Off Farms ¹	15,720	13,791	12,694	92	137,652	170,122	166,939	98
Total	19,120	18,491	15,494	84	158,652	203,522	192,839	95
Oats								
On Farms	1,500	1,100	900	82	45,600	43,500	41,900	96
Off Farms ¹	²	²	²		49,414	38,946	32,812	84
Total	²	²	²		95,014	82,446	74,712	91

¹Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors. ²Not published to avoid disclosure of individual operations.
Source: USDA NASS Grain Stocks, March 31, 2006.

Prices Received: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, Preliminary March 2006 with Comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Nebraska			United States				
		Mar 2005 ¹	Feb 2006 ¹	Mar 15, 2006	Mar 2005 ¹	Feb 2006 ¹	Mar 15, 2006	% of Parity	Parity Price ²
All wheat	Bushels	\$ 3.29	\$ 3.73	\$ 3.90	\$ 3.42	\$ 3.66	\$ 3.71	36	\$ 10.30
Corn	Bushels	1.98	1.94	1.95	2.02	2.02	2.01	26	7.65
Oats	Bushels	1.78	1.83	1.70	1.73	1.82	1.77	42	4.25
Grain Sorghum	Cwt.	3.03	3.20	3.30	3.04	3.40	3.29	28	11.90
Soybeans	Bushels	5.88	5.42	5.40	5.95	5.67	5.55	33	16.90
Hay, All, Baled	Ton	50.00	52.00	52.00	92.60	95.00	97.10		
Alfalfa, Baled	Ton	50.00	52.00	53.00	98.60	99.20	100.00		
Other, Baled	Ton	48.00	47.00	47.00	77.80	83.20	86.60		
Dry Edible Beans	Cwt.	24.00	16.60	16.10	26.60	17.40	19.50	36	54.00
Hogs	Cwt.	52.10	44.30	43.90	51.20	42.60	42.40	37	115.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	52.40	44.60	44.10	51.50	43.20	42.80		
Sows	Cwt.	42.60	31.50	34.80	43.40	31.10	34.40		
Beef Cattle	Cwt.	94.90	96.60	92.70	91.00	92.40	89.20	47	190.00
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	96.00	98.00	94.00	95.20	97.80	94.10		
Cows	Cwt.	60.00	49.90	50.60	55.00	49.70	49.90		
Calves	Cwt.	139.00	145.00	141.00	136.00	142.00	138.00	52	263.00
Sheep	Cwt.	44.00	44.20		49.00	46.00			94.00
Lambs	Cwt.	116.00	92.00		114.00	96.80			229.00

¹ Entire month average except hay. ² Parity price based on data for March 2006.

Source: USDA NASS Agricultural Prices, March 30, 2006.

Hogs and Pigs

Nebraska inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2006, was 2.90 million head. This was 5 percent above March 1, 2005 and up 2 percent from December 1, 2005. Breeding inventory, at 355,000 head, was unchanged from March 1, 2005 but up 1 percent from last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 2.55million head, was 6 percent above last year and 2 percent above last quarter.

Inventory of all hogs and pigs in the United States was 60.1 million head on March 1, 2006. This was up 1 percent from last year but down 2 percent from December 1, 2005. Breeding inventory, at 6.03 million head, was up 1 percent from March 1, 2005 and up slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.1 million head, was up 1 percent from last year but down 2 percent from last quarter.

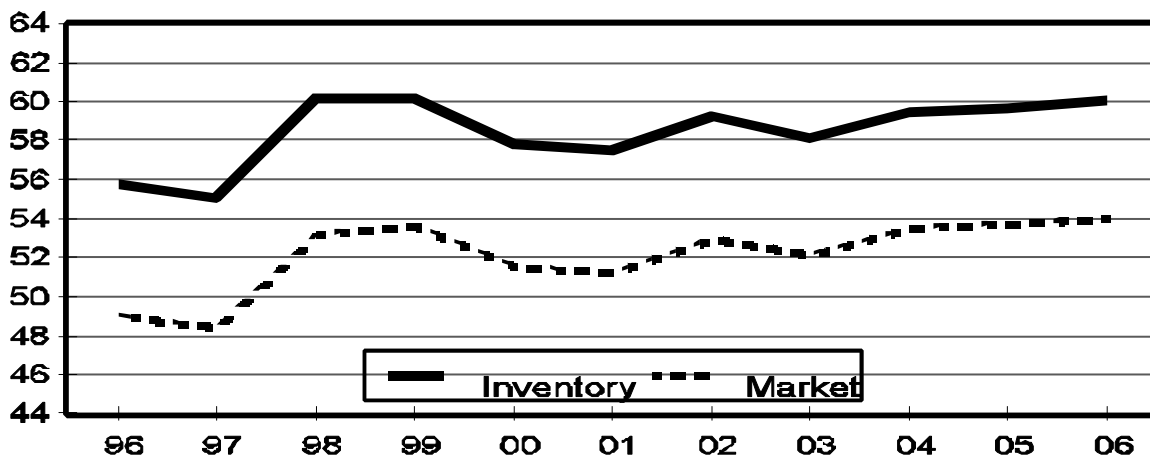
Hogs and Pigs: March 1 Inventory, Sows Farrowing and Pig Crop, Nebraska and United States 2005-2006¹

Item	Nebraska			United States		
	2005	2006	2006/2005	2005	2006	2006/2005
	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>		<i>Percent</i>
March 1 Inventory						
All hogs and pigs	2,750	2,900	105	59,699	60,104	101
Breeding	355	355	100	5,941	6,025	101
Market	2,395	2,545	106	53,757	54,079	101
Market Hogs & Pigs						
Under 60 pounds	970	1,000	103	19,667	19,838	101
60-119 pounds	600	660	110	13,087	13,114	100
120-179 pounds	470	490	104	11,360	11,317	100
180 pounds and over	355	395	111	9,644	9,811	102
Sows Farrowing						
December-February ²	175	175	100	2,835	2,840	100
March-May ³	175	175	100	2,882	2,896	101
December-May ^{2,4}	350	350	100	5,716	5,736	100
June-August ³	175	175	100	2,918	2,923	100
September-November	175			2,888		
June-November	350			5,806		
Pig Crop						
December-February ²	1,575	1,601	102	25,343	25,654	101
March-May	1,584			25,986		
December-May ²	3,159			51,330		
June-August	1,584			26,449		
September-November	1,584			26,080		
June-November	3,168			52,528		

¹ May not add due to rounding. ² December preceding year. ³ Intentions for 2006. ⁴ Actual farrowings for December 2005–February 2006 plus intentions for March-May 2006. Source: USDA NASS Quarterly Hog and Pigs, March 31, 2006.

U.S. Hog Inventory & Market Hogs March 1

Million Head



Commercial Livestock Slaughter

February 2006 number slaughtered and changes from last year and last month are shown below. February 2005 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays. February 2006 contained 20 weekdays (including one holiday) and four Saturdays.

Livestock Slaughter: By Commodity, Nebraska and United States, February 2006 with Comparisons

Item	Total ¹	Feb 2006 Percent of	
		Feb 2005	Jan 2006
Nebraska	<i>1,000 Head</i>		
Cattle, head	506.7	101	91
Hogs, head	555.5	99	91
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	525.7	103	92
United States			
Cattle, head	2,345.9	100	89
Calves, head	53.0	86	95
Hogs, head	8,054.7	99	90
Sheep & Lambs, head	202.5	95	91
Red Meat, mil. lbs.	3,483.8	102	90

¹ Excludes animals slaughtered on farms.

Source: USDA NASS Livestock Slaughter, March 24, 2006.

Stocks in Cold Storage: By Commodity, United States, February 2006 with Comparisons

Commodity	Stocks	Feb 2006 Percent of	
		Feb 2005	Jan 2006
1,000 Lbs			
Total red meats	968,536	101	97
Beef	429,248	107	95
Pork	518,925	96	99
Poultry	1,237,966	122	104
Turkey	313,337	83	119
Chicken	920,028	145	100

Source: USDA NASS Cold Storage, March 22, 2006.

Poultry: Layers and Eggs, Nebraska and United States, February 2006 with Comparisons

Item	2005	2006	2006/2005
<i>Millions</i>			
Number of Layers			
Nebraska	12.1	11.8	98
United States	348.8	349.7	100
Table Eggs Produced			
Nebraska	244	247	101
United States	5,915	5,985	101
Chickens Hatched, February			
United States			
Egg-type	33.9	33.7	99
Broiler	731.3	733.1	100

Source: USDA NASS Chicken and Eggs, March 24, 2006.

2005 Cropland Data Layer Available

The Cropland Data Layer for Nebraska depicting distribution of 2005 crops is now available on CD Rom. Order it at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/research/Cropland/sarsexample3.html> or call 1-800-727-9540.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

USDA NASS
Nebraska Field Office
P.O. Box 81069
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501-1069
OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

PRESORTED STANDARD
POSTAGE & FEES PAID
USDA PERMIT NO. G-38